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## **Governor Brian Schweitzer Presents Significant Funding to the Rialto Theatre & Sun Mountain Lumber in Deer Lodge**

(HELENA) – Governor Brian Schweitzer presented a total of \$450,000 to the Rialto Theatre and Sun Mountain Lumber in Deer Lodge on Tuesday, February 5th. Governor Schweitzer was joined by officials from the Montana Department of Commerce, area legislators and officials from the Rialto Community Theatre Inc. and Sun Mountain Lumber.

“The community of Deer Lodge has a history as rich as its people,” said Governor Brian Schweitzer. “I am honored to join the Montana Department of Commerce in presenting Deer Lodge with funds that will help preserve its treasured past and cultivate its bright future.”

“This is a great day for the Rialto Theatre, Sun Mountain Lumber and the people of Deer Lodge,” said Anthony Preite, director of the Montana Department of Commerce. “We’re here creating jobs and helping restore a historic landmark that is beloved in this community.”

The Rialto Community Theatre Inc. received \$50,000 from the Montana Department of Commerce. The 2007 Legislature approved the funds through House Bill 574, sponsored by Representative Cynthia Hiner (D) of Deer Lodge, and co-sponsored by Representative John Ward (R) of Helena and Senator Dave Lewis (R) of Helena. The funds will be used to restore the historic theatre, which was gutted by fire in November, 2006.

Sun Mountain Lumber received \$400,000 in federal Community Development Block Grants Economic Development funds from the Montana Department of Commerce. The funds will be used to train new and incumbent workers on new equipment, and for working capital. Approximately 27 new, full time jobs will be created through the funds and a total of 41 people will be trained. Fifty-one percent of these jobs will be held by low and moderate income people.

Rep. Hiner, Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D) of Anaconda and Rep. Dan Villa (D) of Anaconda strongly supported these projects.

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